

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning at page 3, line 22 has been amended as follows:

The device 14 has an inlet 16 and an outlet 18 (~~orientated~~ oriented dependent on the flow direction in the expiration branch 10). A first chamber 20 and a second chamber 22 are arranged between the inlet 16 and the outlet 18. The chambers 20,22 can be exchange-coupled as flow paths in the expiration branch by means of a switching valve 24. The switching valve 24 is controlled by a controller 26.

The paragraph beginning at page 4, line 3 has been amended as follows:

The device 14 operates as follows: During the initial phase of expiration (exhalation) gas from the dead volume enters the tubing system 6 (that is, the volume in the common part of the inspiration branch 8 and the expiration branch 10 facing the patient, which may include a humidifier, heat/moisture exchanger, etc.) and the patient ~~gas~~ gas flows through the expiration branch 10. The gas has not been involved in gas exchange in the patient's lungs and is thus essentially free of carbon dioxide.

The paragraph beginning at page 4, line 10 has been amended as follows:

The switching valve 24 is controlled by the controller 26 so that this carbon dioxide free gas flows through the first chamber 20. (Obviously, this requires that the dead space volume first must flow to the device 14. The volume between the device 14 and the dead space ~~contain~~ contains remnants from the previous expiration and thus contains carbon dioxide.) When a volume equivalent to the dead volume has filled the first chamber 20 the switching valve 24 is controlled to switch so that the exhaled gas flows through the second chamber 22, through the outlet 18 and on to the unit 12.